

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

The Blumenthal Companies

Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance

Opportunity Knocks on Blumenthal's Door

Client Profile:

Blumenthal Manufacturing, founded in 1949, is a family-owned business initially offering remanufactured automotive transmissions to Sears, OTASCO, Montgomery Ward and others. Today, the company supplies a wide variety of transmissions, clutches, differentials and other power train components to dozens of customers and some of the world's largest fleets. Blumenthal employs 137 people at its facility in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Situation:

When Mopar, the parts and service arm of Chrysler Group, lost its main supplier for manual remanufactured transmissions, it was the opportunity of a lifetime for Blumenthal. While the company had the experience and the determination to take on the huge endeavor, its production system needed a major overhaul. Blumenthal sought help through Bob Carter, a manufacturing extension agent with the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, a NIST MEP Network affiliate.

Solution:

The Alliance and company leaders developed a program that would quickly transform Blumenthal's factory, meeting Mopar's challenging timeline and quality demands. With the help of Don Lake, an Oklahoma State University applications engineer working for the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, and Rajesh Krishnamurthy, a Ph.D. student, Blumenthal completely remodeled its plant and introduced six new production lines in six months. It incorporated Lean manufacturing principles and created a crisp, clean and efficient production process. After passing rigorous Mopar evaluations, the company is starting to earn more Chrysler work. It has led to great new business opportunities and a significant dollar impact on the local economy.

Results:

- * Awarded contract with Mopar.
- * Developed six new production lines.
- * Achieved a more competitive and profitable position.

Testimonial:

"Mopar was dazzled by our knowledge and Oklahoma's can-do spirit. Though it looked impossible at the beginning, with the help of the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance we met or beat every timeline and goal."

Harry Brown, Marketing Manager